

Changes to the Specification

The following changes to the paragraph starting on page 27, line 13, are necessitated by the change to Figure 13b, as described in the section Changes to the Drawings above.

Figure 13b is a partial cross-sectional view of assembly 100, showing how funnel 30 actually fits into base 1. Referring to Figure 5, Figure 6, Figure 9, and Figure 13b, when the lower portion of funnel 30 is inserted into funnel well 26 of base 1, the one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 are forced to deflect upward as shown in Figure 13b, thereby releasably attaching funnel 30 to base 1 with an interference fit between end wall 47 of one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 of funnel 30 and inside wall 5 of funnel well 26 of base 1. Chamfer 20 of base 1 guides one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 into funnel well 26 of base 1 during the assembly of the funnel to the base. Funnel 30 is pressed into base 1 until side wall 48 of funnel stop 36 of funnel 30, hits top outer wall 12 of base 1, so that dimension [59] 59a shown in Figure 13b becomes zero, thus funnel stop 36 limits the distance funnel 30 can be inserted into base 1. Funnel stop 36 also acts as a dust cap. Once funnel 30 is inserted into base 1, with one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 deflected upward as shown in Figure 13b, the upward deflection of one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 will prevent funnel 30 from accidentally disengaging from base 1. The thickness and diameter of the one or more integral flexible funnel seal rings 37 should be sized so that funnel 30 is releasably attached to base 1 with sufficient force to prevent accidental disengagement of funnel 30 from base 1, but not with enough force to make it difficult for the end user to remove funnel 30 from base 1 when the filtration process is complete. Integral flexible filter seal 38 of funnel 30 is compressed from its

uncompressed dimension 57 shown in Figure 13a, to its compressed dimension 57c, shown in Figure 13b, thus releasably sealing filter means 90 between filter seal surface 11 of base 1, and bottom surface 44 of integral flexible filter seal 38 of funnel 30. By making dimension 57 sufficiently large, integral flexible filter seal 38 can provide a leak tight seal for any type of filter means with a thickness ranging from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 0.025" or more. Microporous filters are commonly used in applications for detecting bacteria, yeast, or mold, and range in thickness from 0.001" to 0.012". Funnel stop 36 assures that integral flexible filter seal 38 will not be over compressed. It is desired that the downward force exerted on the top face of filter means 90 by bottom surface 44 of integral flexible filter seal 38 be sufficient to seal filter means 90, and thus prevent bypass of the filtered liquid around filter means 90, but not be so great as to prevent filter means 90 from expanding radially as filter means 90 swells when it becomes wet from the liquid being filtered. Referring to Figure 9, dimension 50, and dimension 57, combined with the location of funnel stop 36 relative to bottom surface 44 of integral flexible filter seal 38, will determine the downward force exerted on the top surface of filter means 90, by bottom surface 44 of integral flexible filter seal 38, when funnel 30 is inserted into base 1.